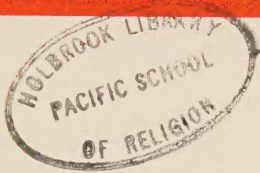


# ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

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EDITOR : JOHN GARRETT · 17, ROUTE DE MALAGNOU · GENEVA · SWITZERLAND  
TEL. 36 71 30 · CABLES OIKOUMENE  
U.S. ENQUIRIES : WCC, 156 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK 10 : TEL. WATKINS 4-8551

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UN Report Sees Decline in Religious Bias

(New York) - A two-year study by the United Nations has found that religious discrimination is declining around the world.

The 30,000 word study, completed before the recent outbreak of anti-Semitic vandalism, concludes that there is "a widespread trend" toward equal treatment of religions and their followers.

It attributes the trend to a change in the attitude of churches, governments and the public. However, it said, the possibility of a reversal in this trend should not be ruled out. It suggested a proposed list of "basic rules" to guide governments in their efforts to eradicate discrimination of "thought, conscience and religion", including:

Freedom to adhere or not to adhere to a religion and ... to comply with practices prescribed or authorized by (the individual's) religion or beliefs.

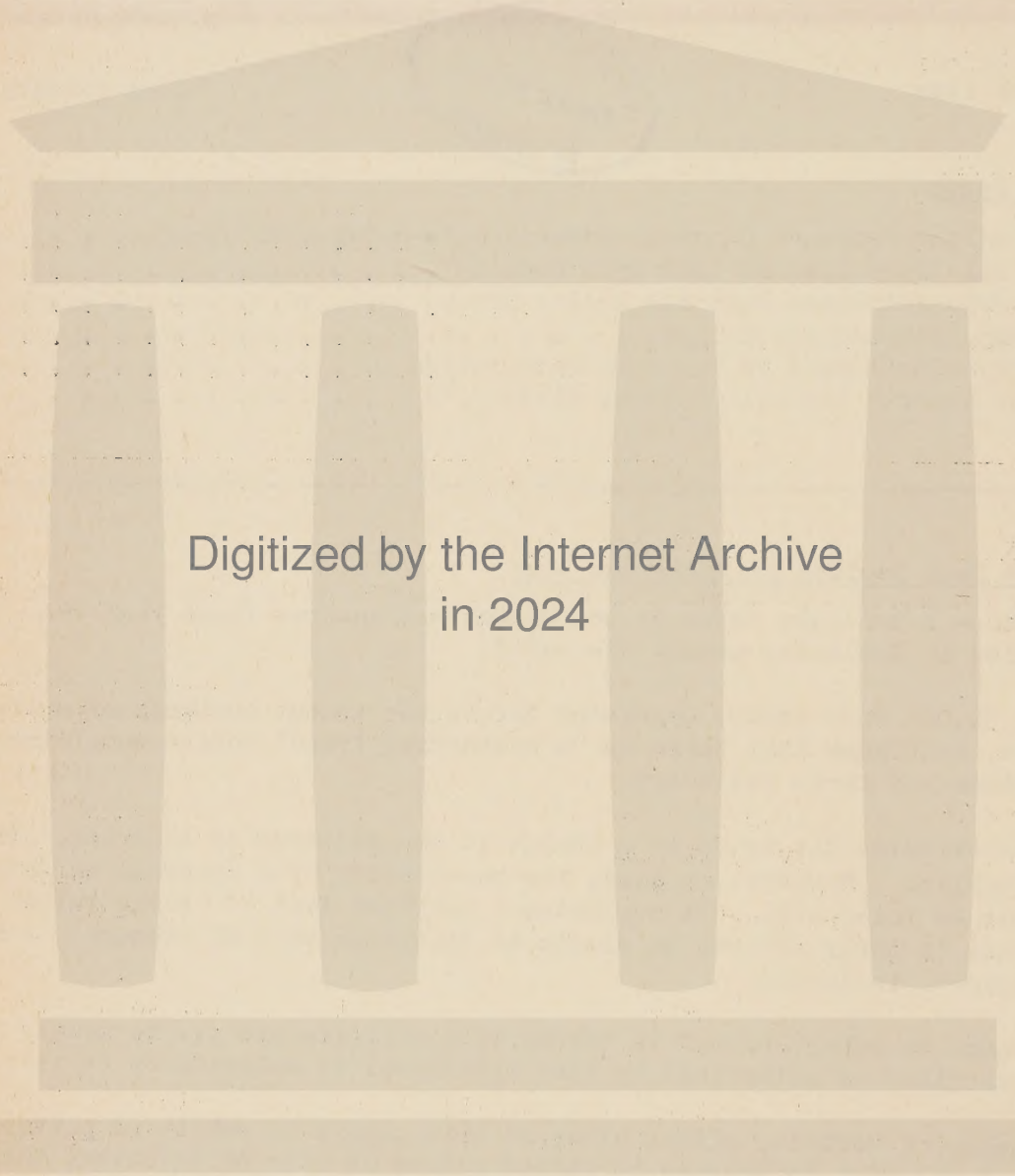
Freedom of worship, either alone or with others in public or private and freedom of pilgrims to journey to sacred places as acts of devotion, whether inside or outside their country.

Freedom to disseminate a religion or belief, provided it does not impair the rights of others.

No one should be compelled to take an oath contrary to the prescriptions of his religion or belief.

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Religions and their followers should not be favoured or discriminated against in the granting of subsidies or tax exemptions.

The report was compiled by Arcot Krishnaswami, of India, a member of the UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. He has also prepared separate reports on religious discrimination in 86 countries.  
EPS, Geneva.

#### New Zealand Churches Denounce Government's Refugee Programme

(Christchurch, New Zealand) - The New Zealand Council of Churches has denounced as "quite inadequate" the response of the New Zealand Government to World Refugee Year.

In a letter to Prime Minister Walter Nash, the Council charged that while the Government has continued its normal grant to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, its only additional effort toward World Refugee Year appears to be the granting of entry permits for "a small group" of 50 partially handicapped refugee families from Hong Kong and Europe.

The Rev. Alan A. Brash, NCC general secretary, interviewed at World Council of Churches headquarters in Geneva, described New Zealand's effort as "pathetically inadequate".

"The truth is that those New Zealanders who are really informed about the refugee situation in the world are ashamed of how little we have done to help solve it through the years," he said. "The NCC had sent this public letter of protest to the Government in the hope that it will challenge the country as a whole and result in the demand for more generous action." He added that, "we hope our particular proposals might be adopted, but a greater concern is that something should be done on a big scale."

The Council has asked the government to reconsider a so-far rejected NCC proposal that churches and government cooperate to establish a home for at least 100 aged white Russian refugees from Hong Kong. Through appeals conducted by CORSO, an overseas relief organization of 37 church welfare and social agencies, individual New Zealanders have already contributed more than \$150,000 (\$420,000) to World Refugee Year. The amount is \$50,000 more than the original target goal for the country for the year. This amount (\$100,000) was raised in the first month of World Refugee Year. New Zealand has a population of 2,750,000 persons.  
EPS, Geneva.

#### Alabama Methodists Oppose Report

(Montgomery, Alabama) - A group of Alabama Methodist ministers and lay leaders have charged that retention of present Methodist Church organization is another move toward ultimate racial integration in the denomination. (See EPS No.2)

The General Conference of the Church had been advised by a special fact-finding commission to keep its present regional and jurisdictional structure, including the "Central Jurisdiction" for Negro churches.

One of the critics, Dr. G. Stanley Frazer, a retired minister, said that the commission's recommendation means that "all segregation factors in the churches, schools and other facets of the denomination are to be eliminated". He said that "as the report is written, the Jurisdictional Conference of the Methodist Church will become little more than a form without meaning or authority. In the commission's proposals the jurisdictions are being stripped of major powers".







The commission, composed of some of the church's most highly respected clergymen and lay leaders, had reported that "drastic legislation will not accomplish the fully inclusive Church we all desire".

It suggested that, instead of abolishing the present jurisdictional structure, the 1960 General Conference seek to implement an amendment of the church constitution which provides legal steps for the transfer of local congregations from one jurisdiction to another. It also urged the development of inter-racial ministerial associations at the community level.

Alabama church leaders also opposing the Commission's suggestion included Circuit Judge Whit Windham, president of the unofficial Alabama Methodist Layman's Union; and Judge L. S. Moore, the union's vice-president and chairman of the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference delegation to the Church's General Conference to be held at Denver, Colorado, April 27 - May 11. EPS, Geneva.

#### Race Relations Message Asks Open Housing

(New York) - US Christians have been called upon to eliminate racial barriers in housing as a practical demonstration of good neighbourliness in their communities in the annual Message for Race Relations Sunday (February 14) issued by the National Council of Churches.

The message, entitled "... love... in deed and in truth", stresses that Christians can exhibit their Christian love by working to make adequate housing available to all persons without regard to race, religion or national origin and thus "... overcome estrangement as well as bind up the broken fellowship in our society".

In far too many instances, it says, love is not practiced in the current pattern of racial relationships in the United States. "The superior-inferior status accorded people on the basis of their race results in broken fellowship, but, even worse, in estrangement and at times in open conflict."

Noting that Christians are aware segregation is sinful and many churches are working to eliminate discrimination, the message asked that all Christians express their love for their fellow-men by selling or renting property to all persons regardless of race or colour. EPS, Geneva.

#### Pope John Addresses Catholic Action Group

(Vatican City) - Pope John XXIII in an address in St. Peter's Basilica has urged Catholic Action organizations everywhere to be "a shining mirror of brotherly unity and a banner of salvation for society".

Addressing some 20,000 persons, most of them members of the women's branch of Italian Catholic Action, at a ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of Rome Catholic Action, the Pontiff declared:

"You are engaged in the strenuous defense of the fundamental principles of Christian social order, in the protection of man redeemed by Jesus Christ and in defending the dignity, freedom and inalienable rights of man."

Observers noted that Pope John's predecessors, Pope Pius X, Pius XI and Pius XII in similar addresses had defined the goal of Catholic Action as "the defense of Catholic truth."





Catholic Action, as described by Pope Pius XI is "the participation of the laity in the apostolate of the hierarchy" by the pursuit of personal Christian perfection and by the union of all social classes around those centres of doctrine and social activity sustained by the authority of the bishops. EPS, Geneva.

### Kamerun Independence Hailed

(Philadelphia) - The independence of Kamerun, West Africa on January 1, has been hailed by two top officials of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA.

In a cable of congratulation sent to Prime Minister Ahmadou Ahidjo, Dr. Arthur L. Miller, moderator of the Church's General Assembly and Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, its stated clerk said:

"We pray God's blessing upon your citizens as they build their new nation and make their contribution to a free world. Having through these years developed friendly relations with the people of Kamerun through a programme of Christian mission, we pledge our continued cooperation through the Presbyterian Church of Kamerun."

American Presbyterian missions have been active in Kamerun (formerly French Cameroun) for more than 100 years and have established numerous churches, 8 hospitals, ten dispensaries, a dental clinic, four leprosy projects, 235 primary schools, a college and a seminary.

The Presbyterian Church of Kamerun has 83,350 members in 190 congregations and 1,250 "unorganized groups" served by 92 African ordained ministers, 1400 evangelists and a number of missionaries. Also serving as "fraternal workers" with the Kamerun Church are 106 Americans, 16 Swiss, French and Italians and one Australian.

EPS, Geneva.

### US Churches Study Economic Problems

(New York) - Local Protestant and Orthodox congregations across the United States have undertaken a year-long study of key problems in the US economy.

The studies, launched this week as part of the observance of Church and Economic Life Week (January 17 - 23) are designed "to develop an active and informed concern by church people for the application of Christian principles to economic life".

Theme of the week is "New Trials for a New Decade". The studies have been organized in five main "problem areas": peaceful uses of atomic energy, moral aspects of inflation; effects of America's "working women" patterns; relationship of farmers' welfare to labour unions' higher wage demands; and the churches' own business and employment practices.

The studies are being sponsored by the National Council of Churches' Department of Church and Economic Life of which Charles P. Taft, Cincinnati, Ohio, prominent Episcopal layman and former mayor of Cincinnati, is chairman.

EPS, Geneva.





Churches Challenged On European Integration

(Amsterdam) - European churches have been challenged to help develop in their members an understanding of rapidly developing plans for European integration.

Although all plans indicate the issue is "fully alive", "... Christian opinion, generally speaking is not aware of the importance of what is at stake", according to the Committee on the Christian Responsibility for European Cooperation.

"It is inclined to hold to the past instead of seeing the tasks and opportunities of the future," the Committee declared, "yet there is no doubt that for Europe the establishment of a responsible society... requires a better understanding not only by experts, but by peoples at large..."

The challenge was part of one of a series of statements issued at the conclusion of the semi-annual meeting of the Committee held last week (January 9-10) in Amsterdam. The Committee is an unofficial group of prominent Christian laymen and theologians concerned with the issues of the changing European political and economic life.

The report on European integration noted that while the experiment of the European Communities of the Six is "a going concern and a factor in the planning of every European businessman", there are still "difficulties" in relationships with Great Britain and some other countries of the European Free Trade Area and "it is probably too early to expect final settlements".

But regardless of the outcome of such discussions, it added, there can be no doubt "the Europe of national states (Europe des patries) seems to belong to the past... and that today the national states are no longer commensurate with the technical development and the spiritual requirements of the modern world".

In the statement on the Summit Negotiations, the Committee noted that "Christian people cannot but welcome the resumption of such negotiations", yet they must view the possibilities of the discussions with "sober realism".

"It will be easier to come to terms with the Soviet Union about outer space and Antarctica than about Berlin," it said. "... the basic disagreement between the Soviet Union and the Atlantic Alliance over Europe remains."

A statement on Moral Issues in European life, pointed to the burden of tensions created by the East-West conflicts, but warned that "next to violence, resignation is the worst response to the frustrating aspects of this situation". Solutions to the many problems of Europe, it said, "can only spring from convictions on man and society which are not given up under changing circumstances".

"Nothing less is required than a new European society, emerging out of the ruins of our old nations and classes: grateful for the benefits of the past and ready to share them with others; ashamed of former wrongs and open to the demands of the future." In such a society, it added, "the witness of the Gospel would not only be respected but taken seriously".

Chairman of the Committee is Dr. C. L. Patijn, prominent lay leader in the ecumenical movement and a member of the Dutch Parliament. EPS, Geneva.







Churches Study Migration Problems

(Geneva) - The broad problems of international migration and responsibilities of the churches in the field are being explored by special study groups in ten countries.

Organized as unofficial advisory groups to a major four-year study of migration being conducted by the World Council of Churches, the groups have been set-up in Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom and the USA.

A report on their activities was presented at a special three-day meeting, (January 11 - 13) at WCC headquarters in Geneva of the 14-member Commission which is conducting the study.

The national groups, composed of church leaders and specialists, are dealing with a wide range of questions affecting the migrant. These include study of motivations for migration, the problems of returnees and the factors in integration - social, economic and sociological, including the role played by the immigrant's personal faith in the success or failure of his integration.

The study initiated in 1958, will be climaxed by an international conference to be held in June, 1961, in or near Geneva. The Commission, which is chaired by Dr. Robert Mackie, of Bigger, Scotland, also chairman of the Administrative Committee of the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, is expected to meet again next year to complete plans for the Conference. Its first meeting was held one year ago.

EPS, Geneva.

Roman Catholics Pray for Unity

(The Hague) - The national office of the Apostolate of Prayer of the Roman Catholic Church at Nimwegan, the Netherlands, has published extensive documentary material on the ecumenical movement in connection with the observance of the Chair of Unity Octave, January 18 - 25, when Roman Catholics around the world pray for Christian unity.

Observers noted that the document differs from previous such ones in that it does not make use of such words as "conversion" and "return" to the Roman Catholic church in describing steps towards Christian unity.

The document exhorts Roman Catholics to pray for "unity as Christ willed it... that all Catholics, non-Catholic Eastern Christians, Anglicans and Reformed Christians may increase their prayers and actively continue their endeavors for Unity! that all spiritual leaders may be led to an increased understanding of the necessity of unity in humility and love; that the shame of a divided Christendom may be removed from the view of Jews, Mohammedans and other non-Christians; and finally, that the unity of Christians may become a source of peace and a sign of God's love for all men".

EPS Geneva.







CIMADE Reports Algerian Refugee Gifts

(Paris) - CIMADE has reported material gifts valued at \$22,000 received during the first six weeks of its emergency appeal for Algerian refugees. (See EPS No.46)

The ecumenical service agency of the French Protestant and Orthodox churches, said 4½ tons of milk, 8 tons of sugar, 9½ tons of clothing, 637 blankets, 2,000 yards of cloth, and 1½ tons of rice, chocolate, honey and other foods have been received. All came from French sources with the exception of 3½ tons of clothing which were sent from Zurich, Switzerland.

Material contributions from abroad reported include 100 tons of milk for Church World Service (Canada) and 2,000 pounds of vitamins, 42,000 pounds of sugar and 100,000 pounds of wheat from Church World Service (US).

In addition since May 1959, over \$70,000 has been contributed to the appeal, which was issued jointly by CIMADE and the French Roman Catholic Church.

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

The Rev. Dr. Reuben E. Nelson, former general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, died suddenly of a heart attack last week in New York. He was 54. Dr. Nelson had been Baptist general secretary from 1950 to 1959 when he retired because of illness. Before holding that post he was director of promotion for the convention. Dr. Nelson was a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

\* \*

A three-day celebration of the 1,200,000 member African Methodist Episcopal Church (US) will begin Sunday, February 14, to launch the 200th birthday observance of the denomination's founder, Richard Allen. The Church's bishops, officers, college presidents and others will meet to mark the event in special services in Philadelphia, where the founder was born of slave parents in 1760. Bishop Allen founded the first AME congregation in 1816 and the same year became the denomination's first bishop.

\* \*

With the consecration of Canon H. R. Hunt as Suffragan Bishop of Toronto, Anglican Church of Canada, the diocese has become the first See of the Anglican communion in North America to have three active bishops. Before the consecration rites, which were attended by more than 20 bishops, and leaders of other denominations, Bishop Hunt was general secretary of the Canadian Church's General Synod.

\* \*

Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation, has been granted "an extended health leave" in the United States. Dr. Lund-Quist, who has been hospitalized in Geneva four times since last March 1, because of "high blood pressure and secondary symptoms", has entered the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., for diagnosis and treatment. Upon his discharge from the clinic, it is expected that he will spend "several months in recuperation".

\* \*





Total giving in 1959 in the United States to religious organizations of all faiths reached an estimated \$3.9 billion, as compared with \$3.6 billion the previous year, it has been reported by the American Association of Fund Raising Counsel, in New York. The Counsel said total philanthropy may be in excess of \$7.5 billion, as compared with \$7.1 billion in 1958.

\* \*

Eleven US Methodist ministers are conducting the first Methodist visitation evangelism mission ever held in Wales. The sixteen day (January 8 - 24) mission has been undertaken under the auspices of the Methodist General Board of Evangelism (US) at the invitation of Dr. Maldwyn Edwards of Cardiff, head of Methodism in Wales.

\* \*

The United Lutheran Church in America (US) has reported its membership has almost doubled in the years between 1918 - when it was founded - and 1958. Latest membership is reported at 2,439,792 - a net gain of 1,347,178 baptized members in the forty-year period.

\* \*

Delegates to the 50th anniversary convention of the National Lutheran Educational Convention meeting in Boston, Mass. (US) have voted unanimously to develop a teacher-student exchange programme with Andhra Christian College, Guntur, India. Andhra Christian College, which has approximately 2,000 students, is related to and supported by the United Lutheran Church in America. The NLEEC includes 20 theological seminaries, 29 colleges and universities, six junior colleges and two deaconess training schools in the US and Canada related to nine Lutheran bodies.

\* \*

The Mariological Society of America announced at the close of its 11th annual convention in Detroit, Mich, that it will petition the Ecumenical Council called by Pope John XXIII to inaugurate further study of the Blessed Virgin's role as Co-Redemptrix.

\* \*

Korea's only standard School of Medical Technology has graduated its first class of 13 students at the Presbyterian Hospital in Taegu. The school was founded in May, 1958, by Paul H. Park, chief of laboratories at the Hospital, and Dr. Howard E. Moffett, its superintendent, an American who went to Korea as a Presbyterian missionary in 1949.

\* \*

Christian Endeavour Week will be observed January 31 through February 7, by young people in thousands of Protestant churches in North America. Theme of the observance, which marks the 79th anniversary of the founding of Christian Endeavour is "Citizenship Unlimited". The week's activities will include special rallies, church services, conferences, radio and television broadcasts and other projects.

\* \*

The Very Rev. Father Dom Lambert Beauduin, O. S. B., founder and first Prior of the monastery of Chèvetogne (Belgium), has died at the age of 87. The cloister is known as one of the foremost Roman Catholic centres of ecumenical studies.

\* \*





Dr. Henry J. Cadbury, Philadelphia (US), chairman of the board of directors and the corporation of the American Friends Service Committee for 25 years, has resigned both posts with the world-wide Quaker welfare agency. He will continue serving the committee as honorary chairman. Dr. Cadbury helped found the AFSC in 1917 and was one of its first workers. Named to succeed Dr. Cadbury has been Harold Evans, Philadelphia attorney, who served the committee on its first major mission, the emergency feeding of children in Germany after World War I, and has been on other relief missions to Europe since World War II.

\* \*

Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of the **Diocese** of New York visited His All Holiness Athenagoras, Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church in Istanbul during a recent tour of the area. It was the first visit by a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church to the Patriarchate. Cardinal Spellman and the Ecumenical Patriarch have long been personal friends. The Patriarch, as Archbishop of North and South America of the Orthodox Church, resided in the United States for 18 years.

\* \*

A new quarterly theological journal for Christian university students is being published in Japan under joint auspices of the YWCA and the YMCA. The first issue is devoted to the international teaching project "Life and Mission of the Church" being sponsored by the World Student Christian Federation.

\* \*

Inter-Church Aid and Refugee Service of the British Council of Churches has announced that the final result of its Christmas appeal would "almost certainly be around a quarter of a million pounds" and may easily pass that mark. It said that £205,000 had been received by January 15 and contributions are still coming in at the rate of £4,000 per day.

\* \*

NOTE: A copy of the new WCC ecumenical work camps poster is enclosed with this issue for display use and as a guide to the kind of work camp pictures available for publicity from the WCC Department of Information, 17 route de Malagnou, Geneva, Switzerland. Additional copies of the poster may be ordered at a cost of Fr.Sw. 25.00 per 100 (\$6.00). Discounts for larger quantities.





A Special ReportChurch Leaders Denounce Anti-Semitic Vandalism

(Geneva) - Church leaders around the world have vigorously denounced the current wave of anti-Semitic vandalism and called for immediate and intensified efforts to eradicate the spirit of bigotry and hatred which fosters it.

At the same time, they have warned that the vandalism threatens the religious freedom of all faiths and exhorted Christians to put into daily practice the Christian precepts of the brotherhood of all men as a means of abolishing segregation and discrimination.

This common Christian concern has been stated in messages by both the World Council of Churches and the Vatican. The WCC expressed its "deep sympathy" for victims of the incidents and urged that "this dangerous recrudescence of anti-Semitism be suppressed from the outset". (See EPS No.1)

The Vatican Radio, warned that the same kind of racial hatred responsible for the deaths of millions of Jews in Nazi Germany, "is behind the anti-Semitism of today. In the name of Christianity and humanity and in the name of all the Jews who have perished in the persecution of the past, the people of the world, and more especially certain sections of youth, must be warned against returning to the evil, deplorable practices of the past," it declared.

In West Germany, where the incidents were touched off by the defacing of a synagogue in Cologne, on Christmas Eve, strong protests have been made by the major church groups and leaders.

Bishop Otto Dibelius, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID), has denounced the incidents as "disgusting" and said they were "proof that the German nation has not overcome its past. That past," he added, "could not be killed, but it could be overcome." In a cable to Premier David Ben-Gurion of Israel, he expressed "the deep concern and disgust" of German Protestants over the outbreak and in the name of EKID forwarded a sum of \$25,000 to assist distressed immigrants to Israel.

A statement of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church said the incidents "should lead us to discover our own shortcomings". It urged efforts towards "breaking the silence" between the older and young generations. "We must help our youth to form their own clear judgement on the history and antecedents of the Third Reich," it declared.

Dr. Heinrich Grüber, former representative of the Evangelical Church in Germany to the East German Government, who was himself imprisoned in a concentration camp by the Nazis, told a public meeting in West Berlin that "with every one of the millions of victims of the Nazi regime, Christ has been denied, shot and burned". He said those who had contact with these crimes had lost every right to hold a responsible position.

The German YMCA, also protested against the acts and called upon its members to repudiate all forms of anti-Semitism. Walter Lutz, YMCA General Secretary declared, "The ignominious past of 1933-1945 will not be repeated in our country. Where has the older generation failed? That is the great question."





Church bodies in other parts of the world have been equally vigorous in denouncing the acts.

The Bishops of the Church of Norway issued a statement expressing their conviction that it is the duty of the Christian church to defend the right of every man to live in freedom and that "any threat to this freedom is a mar on Christian civilization".

In Switzerland, the Consistory of the National Protestant Church of Geneva, condemned "all aberrations arising from racial prejudice" and recalled that the Gospel of Christ seeks to tear down the walls of separation between members of the human family. "Christians have a special obligation in fighting anti-Semitic fanaticism that has inflicted such unspeakable suffering on the people of the prophets and of Jesus," it declared.

In the United States, where several acts of vandalism in the desecration of synagogues and churches have been reported, Christian leaders have spoken out sharply in condemnation.

In a statement issued through the National Council of Churches, 21 prominent NCC leaders pledged their solidarity with world Jewry in "combatting this evil". They said they believed it "the duty of the democratic nations of the world to seek out and expose people who are advocating, openly or secretly, the Nazi philosophy of racialism."

Presiding Bishop Arthur Lichtenberger of the Protestant Episcopal Church, said that outbursts of anti-Semitism in the United States "should come as no surprise (as anti-Semitism is ) still a force to be reckoned with in this country. There is ample evidence of it," he continued, "quite apart from recent events. This is a wholly evil thing; it is directed ostensibly against Jewish people, but it is a threat to us all. Christians particularly must combat it wherever it shows itself."

Dr. John W. Thomas, executive secretary of the American Baptist Council on Christian Social Progress, said the US outbreaks were a "flagrant violation of the principle of religious liberty". He asserted that the incidents "should challenge all Baptists to express to our Jewish brethren our abhorrence at what has taken place, and to renew our efforts... to see that constitutional guarantees of freedom of worship for all peoples are implemented..."

Archbishop Iakovos, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, described the incidents as "symptoms of spiritual and moral uneasiness of our times".

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, said that while "some of these things are another form of juvenile delinquency... it appears to me there must have been some organization, although there is latent racial prejudice across the world that tends to imitate any such expressions..."

Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, secretary of the United Lutheran Church in America, said that "any malicious affront to the people from whom my Saviour sprang, I count as dishonouring His name and nature". He declared: "The Christian's hope of salvation, his focus of worship and the source of his highest motivations and authority is the Jew Jesus Christ."

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